To further substantiate that no new matter is being added, in the Remarks section herein the passages whose entry is requested are shown adjacent to the corresponding passages of the above-identified U.S. Provisional Patent Application, and text changes between the two corresponding passages are identified with underlining (for insertions), and square brackets (for deletions).

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the RELATED APPLICATIONS paragraph immediately after the title as follows:

The present application is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/105,401 filed June 26, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,183,366), which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/759,895 filed December 3, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,823,879), which claims the benefit of the following two applications: U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/010,361 filed January 19, 1996 and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/010,703 filed January 26, 1996. The entire disclosure of each of the above-identified applications is considered to be part of the disclosure of the present application and is hereby fully incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 4 as follows:

FIGS. 8A and 8B are an alternative embodiment of the game/advertisement web site 308. In particular, Figs. 8A and 8B is a block diagram of an alternative embodiment of the present invention wherein an advertisement sending daemon (i.e., TCP/IP daemon ad sender on the host computer 308) and an advertisement receiving daemon 806 (on the client end user machine 318) communicate for periodically displaying advertisements and other announcements to a user on the end user machine 318.

The paragraph beginning on page 72, line 21 has been amended as follows:

Referring now to an alternative embodiment of the present invention presented in Fig. 8, wherein the game/advertisement web site 308 coordinates with a third party Internet

access service provider 810 (or interactive cable television provider) for providing Internet 324 (cable television) access to users on a reduced cost or free basis once a user has registered with the web server 340 (cable television provider). That is, the game/advertisement web site 308 contacts the user's Internet service provider 810 and arranges to subsidize the user's Internet service charges in return for the gaming advertisement web site 308 being able to repeatedly download to the user's Internet client node 318 (or alternatively, interactive cable television node), unrequested information such as advertising for presentation to the user.

Please enter the following three paragraphs immediately after the paragraph beginning on page 75, line 17.

An additional and/or alternative description of the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figs. 8A and 8B is as follows: users may use the present invention to access the INTERNET 324 on a reduced cost or free basis, by using whatever TCP/IP SLIP/PPP package they desire and registering with the web server 308. That is, a user can sign up or register by dialing into a terminal server with normal serial dialing and log on as a user identified by the identifier "NEW." User "NEW" is then forced into a connection to an enrollment or registration program so he/she can provide information requested by the present invention. When enrollment is completed, the present invention allows the user to download a communications daemon (e.g., ad receiver daemon 806) to the user's Internet client node 318. The user may then install the daemon on their machine (Internet client node 318) and dial-up with their favorite TCP/IP package.

However, upon accessing the host 308, the user accesses basic functionality of the DISPLAY ENGINE 622 that starts up the downloaded daemon 806. The network host 308 periodically queries each active port on the terminal servers (e.g., Internet client node 318) to get the IP addresses and then send a short message to the daemon 806 which is listening in on a specific port. The DISPLAY ENGINE 622 may also disable access by an end user machine 318 after a certain number of failures.

Note that the host 308 periodically sends an item to the downloaded daemon 806 to display. The daemon then displays the message (advertisement) in a window (of the WWW browser 640) on the user's screen.